



MITA
MEDICAL IMAGING
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE
A DIVISION OF **NEMA**

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July 5, 2011

Senator John Kerry
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your steadfast leadership in removing significant Medicare cuts from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011 that would dramatically impact access to MRI, CT and PET scans. On behalf of the Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA), which represents over 60 medical imaging and therapy equipment manufacturers, innovators, and product developers, we greatly appreciate your efforts to protect patient access to these life-saving diagnostic technologies.

As you know, medical imaging is an innovative field with well-paying jobs including more than 20,000 in Massachusetts alone. Unfortunately, the industry has suffered through reductions in reimbursements for imaging procedures five times in the last five years, with several services being cut by over 60 percent. These cuts have dramatically slashed physician reimbursements for and subsequently patient access to, everything from mammograms and bone density scans to chest x-rays and brain scans. Today, spending on medical imaging in Medicare is below 2006 levels.

We cannot thank you enough for recognizing that reimbursement rate decisions for necessary medical procedures are about health care quality and patient access. Instead, policymakers should consider physician-developed appropriateness criteria and accreditation programs being implemented by Medicare right now. These programs have been shown to be far more effective than reimbursement cuts in ensuring that patients receive the right scan at the right time, and should be allowed to work before revisiting any further cuts to imaging.

Again, we appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

David Fisher
Executive Director
Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance